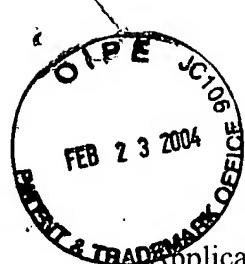


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicant: Hager et al. : Art Unit: TBD  
Serial No.: 10/657,883 : Examiner: TBD  
Filed: September 9, 2003 :  
For: METHODS AND APPARATUS :  
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Robert E. Slenker, Reg. No. 45,112

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following are submitted in the above application in compliance with 37 CFR 1.97 and 37 CFR 1.98.

1. A list of documents on Form PTO-1449 or Substitute together with copies of each identified document and a translation thereof or a concise explanation of each non-English language document or a Search Report or communication from a non-US patent office or an International Search Report from an International Searching Authority for a patent application filed via the Patent Cooperation Treaty or document(s) cited in the application or the priority application.

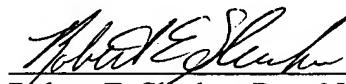
This paper is submitted in accordance with:

2. 37 CFR 1.97(b): [within three months of national, non-CPA filing, prior to first Office Action, on the merits, or prior to first office action after filing an RCE]

- 3. 37 CFR 1.97(c): [before Final Office Action, Allowance, or other action closing prosecution, whichever is earlier]; and
  - a. The required Certification made in item 5 below; or
  - b. The \$180.00 fee specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) for submission of this Information Disclosure Statement is authorized in item 6 below.
- 4. 37 CFR 1.97(d): [on or before issue fee payment]; and
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- 5. Certification
  - a. Each item of information contained in this Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement; or
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This document is submitted in duplicate.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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<p>Substitute for form 1449A/PTO</p> <h2 style="text-align: center;">INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</h2> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i></p>				<i>Complete if Known</i>		
				Application Number		10/657,883
				Filing Date		September 9, 2003
				First Named Inventor		Hager et al.
				Group Art Unit		
				Examiner Name		
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	H0003011 DIV	

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

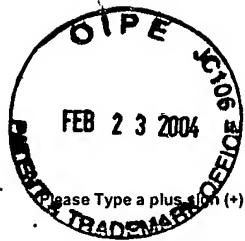
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant Of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
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				Group Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	H0003011 DIV

#### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
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#### OTHER PRIOR ART - - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the items (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), data, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
		International Search Report, dated January 27, 2004, Application No. PCT/US 03/14854, 8 pages	

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